



Or Zarua Purim Services, March 1 and 2

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Or Zarua will celebrate Purim this year beginning on Monday evening, March 1st. Minhah will commence at 5:30 p.m. followed by Maariv and the megillah reading at 5:45 p.m.. Our third annual Purim spiel will immediately follow services at approximately 7:00 p.m. To accommodate the large congregation we have come to expect, the evening service will take place outside the Or Zarua synagogue. You will be notified of this location. On Tuesday morning the megillah will be read again at shaharit beginning at 7:30 a.m. This service will take place in the synagogue on East 82nd Street.

The weeks leading up to Purim start with Shabbat Shekalim on February 13, and then Shabbat Zachor on February 27. On Shabbat Zachor two Torahs are taken from the ark. In addition to the regular sedrah read from the first sefer, we read the section from the second that begins "Remember what Amalek did to you" (Devarim 25), from which the Shabbat gets its name of Shabbat Zachor. The great hasid, Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev, commented on this verse as follows:

"Because you are a man, you first are permitted to remember what the power of evil has done to you. But when you ascend to the rung of the zaddikim, and your heart has rest from all your enemies round about, then you will 'blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under Heaven,' and will remember only what the power of evil has done to Heaven: how it set up a wall between God and Israel, and drove into exile the Divine Presence." M. Buber, *Tales of the Hasidim* 227-28 (Schocken 1991).

Purim follows Shabbat Zachor on Monday evening. Four mitzvot are prescribed for Purim: the reading of the megillah, festivity and rejoicing, the mutual sending of gifts, and gifts to the poor. While it is a positive commandment to read the

megillah, one can fulfill the obligation by hearing the megillah read. Or Zarua will fill the second of the commandments of Purim, festivity and rejoicing, with its Purim spiel following the megillah reading. We fulfill the third of the four commandments of Purim by mishloach manot ("the sending of gifts to one another"). The gift must consist of at least two "portions" to fulfill this mitzvah. Only what is considered edible or drinkable without further cooking or preparation is considered a "portion." E. Kitov, *The Book of Our Heritage* (1978). "Gifts to the poor" take the form of a donation to charity as well as giving the "half-shekel" (at least \$1.50) in a box present at the Purim Service.

Unlike many of the Jewish holidays, Purim has always contained a significant secular component, in part related to the traditional spiels, in part, perhaps, because of the close proximity in timing to non-Jewish carnival celebrations. In his book (actually an anti-Jewish attack), *Derekh Emunah* (The Way of Faith), the 17th Century converso Giulio Morosini, whose real name was Samuel Nahmias, described the secular part of the celebration of Purim in the Venetian Ghetto in the following terms:

"Now let us look at another celebration at Purim, held outside the synagogue with rejoicing and festivities. The young people play at Bullfighting, using oxen and other animals, and in the evening married men too, and married and unmarried women don masks and go visiting their friends and relatives, where they dine and dance. This is what they do in Venice, and it is called the Jewish Carnival, and indeed there is not much difference, for our own Christians also celebrate Carnival there, although it does not end on the same day." R. Calimani, *The Ghetto of Venice A History*, p. 196 (1985).

Congregation Or Zarua

A Conservative Synagogue
Founded 1989

ק"ק אור זרוע



Office: 1384 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10128
Tel: (212) 410-6041
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Synagogue: 127 East 82nd Street

Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler, *Rabbi*
Samuel C. Klagsbrun, *President*

Newsletter Editor
Andrew Frackman

Hebrew School News

from Michelle Schaerf, Education Director

Our Hebrew School concluded its fall semester with a spectacular Hanukkah celebration. It was a great afternoon! The students participated in some of their favorite Hanukkah contests, competing to see who could spin the most dreidels, who could flip the most latkes, who could eat the sufganiyot the fastest, and who could find the most dreidels in the lobby of the Synagogue. Rabbi Wechsler lit the menorah, we sang some of the students' favorite songs, and we all enjoyed the story of Hanukkah as portrayed by the Bet Class puppet show.

With the first month of 1999 nearly over, we are reminded of how fast the school year passes. The Hebrew School classes accomplished so many wonderful things during the first half of the school year. One of our biggest achievements is the Shabbat class for our older students. The classes have been working very diligently since the start of the school year learning new tefillot (prayers) and continuing to practice the ones that they already know. At this point in the year, it is so exciting to see the students joining together on Shabbat morning and participating in a meaningful service.

The Hebrew School has some exciting activities scheduled in the coming weeks. We look forward to celebrating the holiday of Tu B'Shevat with class Tu B'Shevat seders. Also, in honor of Or Zarua's 10th anniversary, we are sponsoring a concert in the synagogue by the Jewish a cappella group N'ranena on Sunday, February 7th, at 4 p.m.. All Or Zarua families and friends - ages 5 and up - are welcome!

For further inquiries about the Or Zarua Hebrew School, please contact Michelle Schaerf at 1-917-834-0308.

Take Part in Or Zarua's Pesah Meal Match

Congregants, if you are able to make room at your table, or would like to be a guest for the first Pesah Seder, Wednesday, March 31st, please fill out this form and return it to Enid Menzies at the Or Zarua office, 1384 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128; or fax it to: (212) 410-2137

Yes, I would like to be a (GUEST) (HOST) (circle one)

GUESTS: Are you planning to bring children? YES NO (circle one)

How many, and what ages? _____

HOSTS: How many people will you host? _____

Do you have children _____

How many, and what ages? _____

Do you welcome children as guests? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Best time to call: _____

Hold the Date:

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1998

It's never too early to "think Passover"! Rabbi Wechsler will once again conduct our annual Second Night Seder.

This is a joyous, happy celebration - following the text in an old-time family manner. Young and old participants and your invited guests will certainly enjoy the evening.

More details and reservation information will be mailed to members of the Congregation.

Reminder Our 10th Anniversary Celebration Begins With...

...Wednesday, February 3rd at 8:00 p.m. in the Synagogue: The Lucy Dawidowicz Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, Rabbi of The Jewish Center, followed by a champagne toast and festive anniversary party. (Please RSVP to the office, 410-6041.)

...Saturday, February 6th at 9:00 a.m. in the Synagogue: 10th Anniversary Shabbat. Minhah/Seudah Shlishit/Maariv starts at 4:01 p.m.

...Sunday, February 7th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Synagogue: N'RANENA a cappella concert of children's songs ranging from Jewish liturgical to modern Israeli music, sponsored by Or Zarua's Hebrew School. Open to all families; children should be at least 5 years of age. Light refreshments will be served following the performance; please RSVP to the office, 410-6041.

Join With Us to Celebrate Our Milestone Birthday!

Youth Hesed News

from Howard Blas, OZYH Director

Or Zarua Youth Hesed (OZYH) members have participated in a number of hesed activities since our successful afternoon in October when we decorated the sukkah at New York Hospital. Members have made chicken soup and matzoh balls as part of Operation Chicken Soup, we have tie-dyed shirts with young adults with cerebral palsy as part of Teensgiving (see below) and we have entertained and taught residents of DeWitt Nursing Home during Hanukkah (also see below).

OZYH is open to all Or Zarua teenagers. Feel free to join us for some or all activities. Please call Howard Blas at 230-1774 for more information or if you have specific community service/hesed needs or interests. Please save Sunday, March 21st (approximately 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon) – we will be delivering Passover food packages to Jewish homebound elderly through Dorot. More details will follow.

OZYH Teensgiving Report

by Sam Levy

This Thanksgiving, as a contribution to the community, the Youth Hesed group participated in Teensgiving'98. The 92nd Street Y got together with Hebrew schools around the city and gave back to the community. Our group in particular went to the New York City Cerebral Palsy Center. Our assignment was to tie dye shirts for the patients, and greet them with friendly faces.

There were several levels of the disease among the patients. We worked with patients that were the most disabled. It was a difficult experience for us, but we managed quite well. The smiles on a few of the patients made it nicer, but we were all still taken aback by the disease and its effects. After the initial shock of seeing these people we went to work and did a pretty good job. We all left feeling good about what we did.

OZYH Teensgiving Report

by Ethan Stanislawski

Last December 20th, Howard Blas and I told the story of Hanukkah to the elderly at the DeWitt Nursing Home. Most of them did not know the story of Hanukkah, so they listened carefully. Afterward, they asked many tough questions. Howard and I then said the blessings and sang many other Hanukkah songs, such as "Maoz Tzur" and "Oh Hanukkah". We also told them about the traditional latkes, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) and dreidels. Many of them were fascinated by Hanukkah and really were enthusiastic. Some of the people there were great to talk to, while others couldn't talk at all. But every person there had a good time.

Or Zarua Building News

The Building Committee has recently hired an owner's representative, Stephen Slater, to assist us during the construction phase of our building project. Steph has had a great deal of experience as an owner's rep for other institutions in the city – most recently, he has been involved in major construction projects at Trinity School and the Town School. While his primary responsibility will be to ensure that construction proceeds on schedule and on budget, Steph will also help guide us through the process of bidding and negotiating a contract for the job.

Hopefully, many of you have had a chance to see the plans that are on view on the lower level of the synagogue. For those of you who have not, below is a list of the primary spaces that the new building will include. It is exciting to contemplate how this major space expansion will enhance the life of our congregation. Many, many thanks to all those who have contributed their talent, energy and dollars toward making the building a reality.

Lower level	Coat room Kitchen Bathrooms
First Floor	Social Hall
Second Floor	Sanctuary
Third Floor	Balcony
Fourth Floor	Library Bathroom
Fifth Floor	Rabbi's office Administrative offices Bathrooms
Sixth Floor	Two 12-child classrooms Principal's office Teacher workroom Bathrooms
Seventh Floor	One 28-child classroom Two 12-child classrooms Bathroom
Roof	Sukkah

February 1999

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Tu B'Shevat	2	3 8 pm 10th Anniversary Party/Lucy Davidowicz Memorial Lecture	4	5 5:01 pm Candle Lighting	6 9 am Shaharit, Yitro 10th Anniversary Shabbat Hebrew School Shabbat Class 4:01 pm Minhah/Seudah Shlishit/Ma'ariv
7 4 pm N'RA'NENA a cappella performance/ Synagogue	8	9	10 8-9:30 pm Talmud Class	11	12 5:09 pm Candle Lighting	13 9 am Shaharit, Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim
14	15 Presidents' Day	16 Rosh Hodesh Adar	17 Rosh Hodesh Adar 8-9:30 pm Talmud Class	18	19 5:18 pm Candle Lighting	20 9 am Shaharit, Terumah
21	22	23	24 8-9:30 pm Talmud Class	25	26 5:26 pm Candle Lighting	27 9 am Shaharit, Tetzaveh Shabbat Zakhor
28						

1999

March

1999

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 5:30 pm Minhah 5:45 pm Megillah Reading 7 pm Purim Spiel at mystery location	2 7:30 am Purim Shahrat at 127 E. 82nd Street	3 8-9:30 pm Talmud Class	4	5 5:34 pm Candle Lighting	6 9 am Shahrat, Kee Tissa Shabbat Parah 4:34 pm Minhah/Seudah Shlshit/Maariv
7	8	9	10 8-9:30 pm Talmud Class	11	12 5:41 pm Candle Lighting Congregational Shabbat Dinners	13 9 am Shahrat, Vayakhel-Pekude Shabbat Hahodesh Hebrew School Shabbat Class
14	15	16	17 8-9:30 pm Talmud Class	18 Rosh Hodesh Nisan	19 5:49 pm Candle Lighting	20 9 am Shahrat, Vayikra
21	22	23	24 8-9:30 pm Talmud Class	25	26 5:56 pm Candle Lighting	27 9 am Shahrat, Tzav Shabbat Hagadol
28	29	30	31 7:30 am Shahrat/Siyum Bekhorim 6:02 pm Candle Lighting 6 pm Passover/Minhah- Maariv 1st Seder			

Contributions

All contributions listed were received on or before January 11, 1999

Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.

Book Fund

Frances Freedman

Hesed Fund

Ruth Drazen, in memory of her mother, Jessie Yorkin

Samuel & Ruth Perelson

Martin & Rochelle Spergel, in memory of Charles Schiffman, Roberta Shechter's father

Kirk Zachary & Susan Smirnoff

Hesed Food Fund

Bart & Georgia Farber

Mina, Elizabeth & John Greenstein, in memory of their husband and father, Marvin Neal Greenstein, on his yahrzeit

Jacob & Esther Oberman, in memory of Charles Schiffman, Roberta Shechter's father

Jacob & Esther Oberman, in honor of Ruth Druss' milestone birthday

Barry & Judith Schneider

Herbert & Lorraine Shapiro, in honor of Terry Krulwich's leadership in synagogue ritual life

Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent

Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler

William & Muriel Tannenbaum, in memory of Charles Schiffman, Roberta Shechter's father

Lynda Wertheim

The progeny of Theodore and Shulamith Koton (David, Michele, Matt & Ben Cooperberg, and Elise, Alan, Nicole, Eliot & Colin Rushovich) in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of their parents and grandparents

Alan & Pat Davidson, in honor of the 95th birthday of Alan's mother, Hilda Davidson

Lynne Galler, in memory of her brother, Marc Galler, on his yahrzeit

Josh, Nate & Julianna Glasser in honor of their father David's birthday

Irving Hoffman, in memory of his beloved wife, Sheila

Simon & Janet Katz, in honor of the Bat-Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Lily Katz

Mark & Hannah Kinn, in memory of Mark's mother, Sonia, and the joy Sarah Frieda gave her

Frederick & Martha Mendelsohn, in memory of his father, Norman Mendelsohn, on his yahrzeit

Ronni Myers, in memory of her father, Albert Myers, on his yahrzeit

Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary, for the wedding Yehuda missed on October 28th and the one he got to on November 4th.

Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent, in memory of Aaron's father, Victor Shelden, on his yahrzeit

Jerome & Linda Spitzer, in memory of Linda's father, George Kirsten, on his yahrzeit

The Talmud Class, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler

Benjamin Marcus

Judith Nadler

Shimon & Robin Neustein

Andrew & Susan Plevin

Norman & Midge Podhoretz

Thelma Rodbell

Leonard & Phyllis Rosen

Ira & Stephanie Rubin

Richard & Bette Saltzman

Gladys Schlanger

Barry & Judith Schneider

Wendy Schriber

Renee Siegel

Robert & Ellen Bromberg Skolnick

Bernard & Leah Tolpin

Chaim Wachsberger & Liz Neumark

Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler & Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Kenneth Weiss

Vicki Wimpfheimer

Steven & Joyce Wolitzer

Prayer Book Fund

Marvin & Penny Cohen, in memory of Rachel Kubiak

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sylvia Adelman

Theodore & Shulamith Koton, for aliyah

Theodore & Shulamith Koton, in appreciation

Kirk Zachary & Susan Smirnoff

General Fund

Arthur & Willi Aeder, in memory of Roger Hertog's father, Henry Hertog

Hildegard Cunow, in honor of Dr. Sam Klagsbrun

Alan & Pat Davidson, in honor of the 95th birthday of Alan's mother, Hilda Davidson

Helen Ferszt, in memory of her aunt, Betty Bernstein

James Fox, in memory of Bertha Grossman, Susan Friedland's mother

Bruce Frank & Susan Weinberg in memory of Susan Friedland's mother, Bertha Grossman

Lynne Galler, in memory of Ezra Tolpin, father of Bernard Tolpin

Glenn & Zella Goldfinger, in honor of Theodore and Shulamith Koton's 50th wedding anniversary

(Continued on Page 7)

Hevra Kadisha Fund

Sylvia Adelman

Ruth Drazen, in memory of her beloved husband, Jerome

Herbert & Judith Lukashok, on the occasion of the discharge from the hospital of Judith's son, Daniel Spitzer, seven weeks after a terrible automobile accident

Frederick & Martha Mendelsohn, in memory of his father, Norman Mendelsohn, on his yahrzeit

Jerome & Linda Spitzer, in memory of Roberta Shechter's father, Charles Schiffman

Kirk Zachary & Susan Smirnoff

Kiddush Fund

Donald Bernstein, in memory of his father, Alan Bernstein

The Borodkin Family, in honor of the 70th birthday of their beloved husband, father and grandfather, Solomon Borodkin

Mina Greenstein, in honor of daughter Elizabeth's reading the Haftarah on the anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah

Kol Nidre Appeal

Edward & Harriet Abramson

Joseph Allerhand & Randi Schatz

Marc & Joanne Ashley

Alan Bandler

Daniel & Lynn Beller

Andrew Braiterman & Ronne Mandelker

Brett & Gwendolyn Cohen

Stephen & Eileen Cohen

Alexander & Susan Deutsch

Mona Preminger Dreier

Michael Fandal

Allen Fienberg & Terry Koch

Doris Finkel

Henry & Karen Glanternik

Rachell Gober

Richard Goldberg

Leonard & Constance Goodman

Joyce Hauser

Andrew Irving & Evelyn Sucher

Howard & Wendy Katz

Mark & Hannah Kinn

Neal & Maud Kozodoy

Jack & Rose Less

Irwin & Francine Levine

Michael & Jamie Lynton

General Fund (Continued)

Glenn & Zella Goldfinger, in memory of Charles Schiffman, father of Roberta Shechter

Leonard & Constance Goodman, in memory of Henry Hertog, father of Roger Hertog
Don & Tosia Gringer, in honor of Willi Aeder's birthday

Jesse & Isadora Hecht, in memory of her parents, Jack and Hannah Silverman, on their yahrzeits

Harvey & Constance Krueger, in honor of Willi Aeder's birthday

David & Judith Lewittes, in memory of his father, Israel Lewittes, on his yahrzeit

Helen Lifton, in memory of her husband, Alexander, on his yahrzeit

Alfred Marks, in memory of his wife, Ruth Marks

Laura Resnikoff, mazel tov to Theodore and Shulamith Koton on their 50th wedding anniversary

Laura Resnikoff, mazel tov to Mort and Evelyn Schwartz on the birth of their grandson

Laura Resnikoff, condolences to Roberta Shechter upon her father's death

Philip Schatten and Cheryl Fishbein, in memory of Cheryl's mother, Adele Fishbein, on her yahrzeit

Morton & Evelyn Schwartz, in honor of the 12/11/98 birth of a grandson, Matthew Joseph Long, son of Rachel & David Long

Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of her mother, Sarah Steiman Shapiro, on her yahrzeit
Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent, Yizkor/Sukkot

Reba Shelden, Yizkor/Sukkot

Bernard & Leah Tolpin, in appreciation of the support during Shivah for his father, Ezra, from Rabbi Wechsler and the Hevra Kadisha

Kurt & Ruth Wimpfheimer

Book Club to Meet Sunday, January 31

An invitation is extended to one and all to participate in the next meeting of the Or Zarua Book Club on Sunday, January 31st, at 7:30 p.m. when *Big League Dreams* by Allen Hoffman will be discussed. A fictional story of Polish Jews resettled in 20th Century America, this book has received excellent reviews.

You're also asked to bring book suggestions for future meetings. Currently under consideration are: *Apples from the Desert* (Savyon Liebrecht); *Turbulent Souls: A Catholic Son's Return to His Jewish Family* (Stephen J. Dubner); *Kaaterskill Falls* (Allegra Goodman); and *The Iron Tracks* (Aharon Appelfeld).

Please call the Or Zarua office (410-6041) for the location of the meeting.

Shabbat Across America**JOIN IN OUR 2nd ANNUAL FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER FRIDAY, MARCH 12**

Members of the Congregation are cordially invited to join fellow congregants for Or Zarua's 2nd Annual Family Shabbat Dinner (a traditional Shabbat meal with friends, with song, and with study) on Friday, March 12, 1998.

Congregants will open their homes to fellow members for Shabbat dinner after the 5:41 p.m. service. If you would like to participate, please return the form printed below. The Shabbat Dinner Committee will contact you with the name and address of your host.

Congregation Or Zarua
Shabbat Dinner Committee
1384 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10023

I/We will be delighted to be the guest of a fellow congregant for Shabbat dinner on Friday, March 12.

Name/s: _____

Children 6 thru 12: _____

Children under 6: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

(home) _____

(office) _____

Congratulations To

Simon & Janet Katz, on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Lily Katz

Keith & Ellen Pearlman on the 11/27/98 birth of their daughter, Katie

Owen & Pearl Pell (belatedly) on the birth of their second son, Adam Benjamin, last July 24th

Morton & Evelyn Schwartz on the birth of their grandson, Matthew Joseph Long

Kenneth & Teri Weiss on the November 21st birth of their son, Zachary Abram

Condolences To

Roger Hertog on the death of his father, Henry Hertog

Helen Lifton on the death of her sister, Corinne Hodes

Frederick Mendelsohn, on the death of his mother, Etta Mendelsohn

Roberta Shecter on the death of her father, Charles Schiffman

Eugene Zuriff on the death of his father, Jack Zuriff

*Reach out to our community
on Super Sunday
and fulfill a tradition
of caring.*



Please join your family, friends, and neighbors on February 7th as we come together to help those in need in New York, in Israel, and around the world.

For more information on how to volunteer, please call (212) 836-1739.

UJA-Federation of New York
130 East 59th Street, NYC

**Super Sunday
February 7, 1999**



UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

We Welcome New Members

Stephen & Eileen Cohen

Ronni Myers

Daniel Shuchman

Lost and Found

Left behind at Rabbi Wechsler's apartment following our congregational Hanukkah party – a cashmere scarf Call Lidiya in the Or Zarua office (410-6041) if you think it might be yours.

OZY SERVICES

Two Youth Services, the first for children ages 2 through 5 and the second for children ages 6 through 9 (no parents), are held on the lower level of the synagogue every Shabbat morning, beginning promptly at 11 a.m. and ending at noon. At the conclusion of the Youth Services, the children are escorted to the Sanctuary to join our congregants in the concluding hymns and Kiddush.

Congregation Or Zarua

1384 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10128

ק"ק אור זרוע

